

THE  
Borough of Daventry.



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1940

October, 1941.



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September 19th 1941.

TO THE MAYOR  
AND  
MEMBERS OF THE  
DAVENTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL.  
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Gentlemen,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report dealing with the sanitary conditions and the health of the Borough during the year ending December 31st. 1940.

Owing to the War the Minister of Health again suggests that the Report should be materially shortened, and only the important matters dealing with the health of the Borough dealt with.

AREA.

The area of the Borough is 3,633 acres.

POPULATION.

The population of the Borough by the Census of 1931 was 3,608; Males 1,783, Females 1,825. The population by the Census of 1921 was 3,518.

The Registrar-General estimates the population of the Borough in 1940 was 3,870, and I am assuming that these figures are correct for the working out of the statistics of this Annual Report.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1940 according to the Rate Books was 1,144.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS.

The number of families or separate occupiers, according to the Census of 1931 was 980, by that of 1921 it was 913.

RATEABLE VALUE.

The rateable value of the Borough at the end of the year 1940 was £25,825, showing an increase of £78 in the twelve months.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE.

The sum represented by a penny rate is estimated to produce £102. 13. 5d.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of living Births registered in the Town during the year was 67, Males 33, Females 34; of these one male and one female were illegitimate.

The Birth Rate of the Borough for the year is therefore 17.31 per 1,000 living, which is 2.71 above the provisional figures for England and Wales for the year 1940, and is most satisfactory.

One legitimate male still-birth was registered in the Borough during the year.



DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths registered in the Town was 65, Males 33, Females 32; this gives a Death Rate of 16.79 per 1,000 for the year, and is 2.49 above the provisional figures for England and Wales for the year 1940.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were two deaths of Infants under one year of age, a Male legitimate and a female illegitimate. This gives an Infant Mortality rate of 30.76 per 1,000 births.

The following are the particulars for each of the last five years.

1936.....	17.85	per 1,000 births.
1937.....	18.18	" " "
1938.....	69.76	" " "
1939.....	19.23	" " "
1940.....	30.76	" " "

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

The Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the year 1940 was 1.29 per 1,000.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

The Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases of all types was 2.58 per 1,000.

MORTALITY.

The Mortality from different causes during the year 1940 according to the return made to me by the Registrar-General was as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	2
Influenza	0	3
Measles	1	0
Cancer of cav. oesoph. uterus.	0	1
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum.	2	0
Cancer of Breast.	0	2
Cancer of all other sites.	5	0
Intra cran: Vaso-Lesions.	0	2
Heart Disease.	7	7
Other Circulatory Diseases.	1	0
Bronchitis.	1	4
Pneumonia.	2	3
Digestive Diseases	4	0
Nephritis	1	3
Maternal causes	0	1
Road traffic accidents	3	1
Other violent causes	1	0
All other causes.	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	33	32
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NURSING.

There is a Child Welfare Centre in the Town; this and the Health Visiting are under the supervision of the County Council. The District Nursing arrangements, which are maintained by voluntary contributions, are managed by a Local Committee; this Committee is affiliated to the Northampton County Nursing Association.

INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

During the year 1940 two hundred and seventy seven cases of Infectious Sickness were notified to me as occurring in the Borough. This at first sight appears a serious increase on former years, but it was almost entirely due to the fact that Measles (owing to the War) became a notifiable disease towards the end of 1939, and that there was an extensive outbreak of this disease in the Town, in my opinion started by Evacuees from London, and other parts of the Country. In the following table are the particulars of the cases which have been reported to me during the last five years

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Scarlet Fever	5	2	1	4	20
Diphtheria	2	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	1	2	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	4	7	4	2
Other Tuberculosis	0	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	3	2	2	2	5
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	1	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	249
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	14	11	13	12	277

There were more cases of Scarlet Fever than for some years, but it was a mild type, and no death was registered from this cause.

The fact that only one death was registered from Measles shows how mild the outbreak of this disease was.

The Borough was quite free from the more serious forms of infectious sickness such as Smallpox, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever.

In all cases of the more serious forms of Infectious Sickness, the homes are immediately visited, and enquiries made to try, if possible, to establish the source of infection; the drains, etc., are examined, and the water and milk supply enquired into; the houses are thoroughly disinfected and every step taken to prevent any spread of the disease.

The notification of Tuberculosis in the Town is efficient, and no action or proceedings were necessary for wilful neglect. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, this disease in any particular part of the Borough. Special attention is always paid to Tubercular cases, not only on behalf of the sufferers themselves but also for the sake of the other members of the families.

The following are the particulars as required by the Ministry of Health :-



(Age	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	(Pulmonary)		(Non-Pulmonary)		(Pulmonary)		(Non-Pulmonary)	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	1	0	1	3	2	0	0

No special arrangements have been made for Bacteriological examination, and I hardly think this is necessary, as when required, these can be carried out by the Pathologist at the General Hospital, Northampton.

#### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The arrangement for the reception of infectious patients at the Staverton Isolation Hospital, which is under the care of the Western Northamptonshire Joint Hospital Board, or other infectious hospitals in the County, were quite satisfactory during the year. Nineteen Scarlet Fever patients were sent in, and I am glad to state that they all recovered.

During the last five years the following cases were removed from the Borough to Isolation Hospitals for treatment.

	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>
Scarlet Fever	5	2	1	2	19
Diphtheria	2	0	0	0	0

For non-infectious sickness, the Borough is within easy distance of the General Hospital, Northampton, or the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, and for Tuberculosis cases there is the Sanatorium at Rushden, under the Northamptonshire County Council.

#### AMBULANCE.

The Borough has its own ambulance for the removal of serious illness or accident to one of the General Hospitals in Northampton or Rugby. This Ambulance was a new one, bought during 1938. For the removal of infectious cases there is the Ambulance at Staverton Isolation Hospital, which is always available on very short notice.

#### SCHOOLS.

These are all in a very satisfactory state, and at no time during the year had I to advise the closing of a school on account of Infectious illness.

## VACCINATION.

Little vaccination has been done in the Borough during the year, and none under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

## INDUSTRY.

The chief trade of the Town is Boot and Shoe Manufacturing; this gives employment to many hundreds; and doubtless the British Broadcasting Corporation's Empire Transmitting Stations on Borough Hill also find some work for the inhabitants. There is also a large number of Agricultural labourers working in the surrounding neighbourhood, who reside in the Town. There was very little unemployment during the year.

## HOUSES.

Owing to the War and shortage of skilled labour little could be done regarding Houses during the year. Any complaints received regarding defects were at once gone into and matters put right, and your officers kept a close watch on roofs, leaky spouts and gutters, and any household drains that got out of order. There were some cases of overcrowding, and these were dealt with as well as circumstances would permit. The condition of the small houses in the Borough is very different from what it was some ten years ago, but I have little doubt, that when the War is over, and things become more normal again, it will be necessary to make another survey of the cottage property throughout the Town.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The drainage of the Town is quite satisfactory, all the sewage being carried to the Sewage Works and Farm for treatment. No river pollution can take place as there are only two small brooks near the Town, and these find their way into the Reservoir belonging to the Grand Union Canal.

## SCAVENGING.

The Scavenging of the Town is carried out by the Corporation; all the house refuse and ashes are collected once a week and removed to an old brickyard off the London Road.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply of the Town is chiefly from the Corporation's own property at Dodford, where there is a deep spring in the middle lias. This, though somewhat hard, is a perfectly pure supply.

There is also a Private supply of water from Borough Hill, which serves many houses. This water is also perfectly pure.

## FOOD AND MILK.

The Food supply of the Town is good, and the premises where it is stored or exposed for sale are quite satisfactory. No case of food poisoning was reported in the Borough during the year.

The Milk supply is also good and there is a plentiful supply. The Sanitary Inspector in his report deals fully with the question of Food and Milk in the Borough.



## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Factories Act, 1937, is carried out in the Town in a satisfactory manner; inspections were frequently made during the year, a few cases of defects under Part I of the above Act were noticed, but on attention being drawn to the matter they were at once rectified. There is no underground bakehouse in the Borough, and care has been taken to see that Bakers keep their bakchouses in a properly clean state, and that they are white-washed at the regular periods.

### STAFF.

The Public Health Officers of the Council are:

G. E. Foster	Clerk to the Borough Council.
A. R. Darley	Medical Officer of Health.
J. B. Williams	Consulting Surveyor.
A. J. Paxman	Surveyor.
F. Bailey	Sanitary Inspector.

Of the above five, the first three are part time officers, while Mr. A. J. Paxman, Surveyor, and Mr. F. Bailey, Sanitary Inspector, both give their whole time to the work.

I append the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector in accordance with Article XX (16) of the Local Government Board's General Order of 13th December 1910.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED R. DARLEY, M. D.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Borough of Daventry.

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## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DAVENTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

As it has again been decided that reports are to be as brief as possible, I have excluded from my report all matters dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health in his report.

During the year five W. Cs have been rebuilt; eighteen new pans fixed and eleven flushers repaired. Four drains have been relaid and thirty seven cleared and repaired.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

This has been dealt with by the M. O. H. in his report. I have disinfected all rooms after the more serious cases of Infectious Disease. Bedding has been destroyed after all deaths from Tuberculosis or Cancer, and compensation paid when asked for.



MEAT SUPPLY.

Early in January slaughtering at Daventry ceased. Since then the meat has arrived in the Town ready dressed. On several occasions the carcasses have arrived in a most unsatisfactory state, the butchers refusing to take them and they have had to be returned to Northampton. Many were heavily splashed and some coated with animal excreta on arrival, others veal and carcasses of sows were putrid, and a considerable quantity of sheep and lambs were mouldy.

On one occasion when the butchers refused to take carcasses of mutton and lamb which were mouldy, the suppliers refused to allow any beef to come into the town, and supplies were very short.

Sides of beef have arrived which have not been properly cooled. When these have been cut up they have smelt offensively in the thicker parts.

On one occasion a clot of blood weighing  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. and a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. mass of excreta was removed from a pig's carcass after it had been weighed out to the local butchers.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The number on the register is the same as last year. One producer is now selling pasteurised milk instead of raw.

All premises have been frequently visited and no cause for complaint has been found.

Twenty four samples of milk were forwarded to Northampton for examination, sixteen being returned as good, three moderate and five as bad. This report is not so good as the average over the past nine years, but two of the moderate and three of the bad samples were produced outside this district. The remaining two bad samples were caused through inexperienced milkers doing the milking after the regular man had joined the Forces.

All premises where food has been stored or prepared have been kept under supervision and visited very frequently. A much smaller quantity has been found to be unfit. This, no doubt, is the result of smaller stocks.

PETROL STORES.

There are the same number as last year and no cause for complaint has been found.

NUISANCES.

These have been dealt with as they have occurred, and most of the notices served were complied with by the end of the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are two in the town and neither have given any cause for complaint.

RAT DESTRUCTION.

A considerable quantity of rat poison was issued during the year, free of charge.

WATER SUPPLY.

Many of the houses which were on the Borough Hill Water Supply were without water for a considerable period during the year. These drew their supply from the Town Supply, and later a considerable number transferred to your water service.

Four samples of water were taken from springs and pumps supplying outlying cottages and forwarded for analysis. Two were found to be unsatisfactory, and these houses have since been connected to the Town supply.

Three houses which were scheduled for demolition are being repaired and will be re-let to people who have been bombed out of their homes. An undertaking has been given that the houses will be demolished after the War.

Three houses which were infested with bugs were disinfected during the year.

As the year advanced it became more difficult to get repairs carried out to defective houses, owing to the shortage of labour and material.

Trusting this report will meet with your approval,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK BAILEY,

Sanitary Inspector,

Borough of Daventry.





